



January , 2019

Maia Bellon, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

NOTE: The same letter will be sent to the 40th and 42nd
District Legislative Representatives.

Subject: Streamflow Restoration Act Watershed Plan Update

Dear Ms. Bellon:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the WRIA 1 (Nooksack Basin) Planning Unit and provides information on the status of the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Plan Update pursuant to the Streamflow Restoration Act (ESSB 6091).

In February 2018, the WRIA 1 Planning Unit in collaboration with the WRIA 1 Initiating Governments initiated a WRIA 1 Watershed Management Plan Update (Plan Update) pursuant to the Streamflow Restoration Act. The local process for completing the Plan Update was prepared and approved by both the WRIA 1 Planning Unit and Initiating Governments February 28 and March 1, 2018, respectively (attached). The approval process reflected in the attached diagram reflects the approval process used for the original WRIA 1 Watershed Management Plan. A general timeline was also prepared based on the legislative deadline established in ESSB 6091 for WRIA 1 to submit an approved Plan Update (attached).

In order to meet the attached timeline using the approved local process, the WRIA 1 Planning Unit was scheduled to approve a Plan Update at its December 12, 2018 meeting. While significant work has been completed to date, an agreed to Plan Update was not ready for approval at the December 12th meeting. The next steps identified at the December 12th meeting as part of a Planning Unit motion includes:

1. Prepare an index of what has been done,
2. Send a letter to Ecology to inform them the Plan Update is not done but is being worked on, and
3. Send a letter to the legislators expressing the same.

The WRIA 1 Planning Unit Caucuses voting in favor of the above motion made by the Water Districts Caucus and seconded by Private Well Owners Caucus included Agriculture, Diking/Drainage, Environmental, Fishers, Forestry, Land Development, Non-Government Water Systems, Port of Bellingham, Private Well Owners, Public Utility District, and Water Districts. The Small Cities and Whatcom County Caucus abstained from the vote, and the State Caucus recused themselves.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding the above information, which is being submitted on behalf of the WRIA 1 Planning Unit.

Regards,

Cc: Mary Verner, Water Resources Program Manager, Dept. of Ecology
Senator Doug Ericksen
Representative Luanne Van Werven
Representative Sharon Shewmake
Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
WRIA 1 Planning Unit
WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board